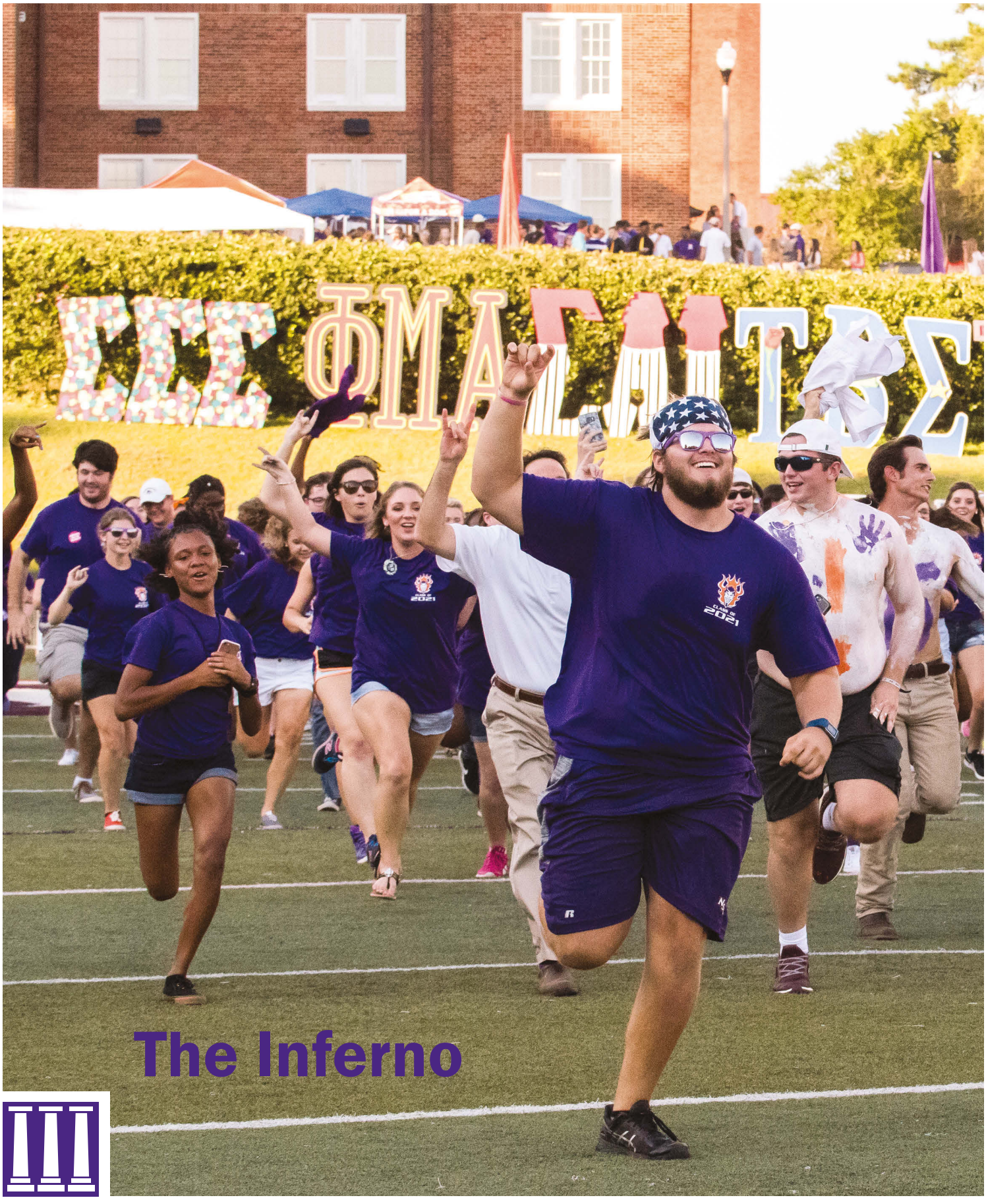
FALL 2017

Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine



The Inferno

Messages

Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State University

My fellow alumni:

As you will read in this edition of Alumni Columns, our campuses have been buzzing with activity. This semester, we welcomed more than 1,500 new students to the NSU family. Take a look at the Class of 2021 pictured on the back of this magazine. Who among those faces will emerge as leaders, innovators and scholars? It is a stellar class of students.

Shortly after classes began this fall, many of our students and alumni from southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana were impacted by the effects of Hurricane Harvey and the NSU community immediately sprang into action collecting supplies and organizing relief efforts. Those efforts continued in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. I am proud of our students' compassion and commitment to serving others and our prayers are with all of those affected.

It has been previously mentioned that NSU set ambitious goals for recruiting and retention and I am proud to report great news: fall enrollment was up 7.7 percent and our freshman to sophomore retention increased to 75 percent. Our university continues to grow, to adapt and to remain market responsive with a culture of "students first." Look again at the Class of 2021. We want every one of those individuals to graduate from NSU prepared for their lives ahead.

Finally, my entire family and I offer heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the ceremonies and celebrations surrounding the September investiture. Those events and the outpouring of support were meaningful beyond measure. We are more than grateful for this opportunity to serve the university we love.

Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs for University Advancement

Dear Alumni:

Sometimes I don't think we can get any busier…and then I am proven wrong. After the shortest summer in memory, we embarked on a fall semester that began at full speed. By the time you read this, Fall 2017 will be halfway over and we will be planning events for the spring, summer and fall of 2018.

You may have heard that NSU has had a banner year in raising financial support, which includes commitments for private gifts, matching funds and grants. As state funding has dwindled, the NSU family took matters into its own hands and aggressively pursued every avenue for raising dollars for student scholarships, faculty development, classroom resources and facility improvements. I would like to thank the development team in the NSU Foundation for their hard work and persistence and I most heartily thank those of you who answered the call to support our alma mater.

With the celebration surrounding Dr. Chris Maggio's investiture just behind us and what promises to be another spectacular Homecoming coming up soon, the feeling of loyalty is stronger than ever at Northwestern State. I invite you to visit campus soon and see for yourself.

Thank you again for your support of Northwestern State University.

On the cover: NSU's Class of 2021 blazed its trail during the annual Inferno run, a tradition for freshmen before the first home football game each season. The Inferno takes the field by storm and forms a tunnel for the football team to run through. With more than 1,500 new students enrolled for Fall 2017, the Class of 2021 is the largest in NSU's history. Photo Credit: Sean McGraw of La Place for the Current Sauce.

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NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

President ..... Monty Chicola, Natchitoches, 1979, 1980
1st Vice President .....Dr. P. Cade Brumley, Stonewall, 2002
2nd Vice President.....Caron Chester Coleman,
.....Natchitoches, 2000
Secretary.....Patricia Hrapmann, New Orleans, 1973, 1978
Treasurer.....Mike Wilburn, Shreveport, 1975

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

NSU President ..... Dr. Chris Maggio, 1985, 1991
Vice President for External Affairs .....Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
for University Advancement..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Associate Director of
Alumni Affairs .....Vanner Erikson, 2011, 2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wil Adams..... Shreveport, 2009
Jerry Brungart..... Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Tommy Chester .....Natchitoches, 1969
Leonard Endris .....Shreveport, 1974, 1975
Allen Evans..... Shreveport, 1989
John Evans.....Natchitoches, 1992
Dr. Hayward Hargrove.....Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Trey Hill..... Carencro, 1985
Carlos Jones.....Round Rock, Texas, 1993
Gail Jones.....Natchez, 1981, 1998
Matt Koury ..... Leesville, 1995
Bryant Lewis..... Haynesville, 1958
W. Lane Luckie.....Tyler, Texas, 2008
Dr. Lisa Landry Mathews.....Shreveport, 1992
Leah Sherman Middlebrook ..... Dallas, 1986, 2016
Kip Patrick..... Washington, DC, 1995
Cliff Poimboeuf..... Shreveport, 1984
Michael Prudhomme..... Natchez, 1984
Joseph W. Schelette..... Shreveport, 1969
Mark Spikes..... League City, Texas, 1991
David Stamey .....Natchitoches, 1982
Joseph B. Stamey.....Natchitoches, 1983
Glenn Talbert ..... Shreveport, 1964
Taylor Townsend.....Natchitoches, 1986
Carlos Treadway ..... Northville, MI, 1992
Marti Vienne .....Natchitoches, 1982
Ricky Walmsley.....Mandeville, 1985
Dr. Leonard Williams.....New Orleans, 1993

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Otha "Tre" Nelson .....Baton Rouge, SGA President

Publisher..... Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Editor .....Leah Pilcher Jackson, 1994, 2011
Contributors.....David West
Doug Ireland, 1986
Matthew Vines, 2016
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Gary Hardamon
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FALL 2017
BY THE NUMBERS

10,572
Fall 2017 Enrollment
(The largest in NSU's history!)

1,542
Number of
New Students

75%
Freshman to Sophomore
Retension

$4.7 M
Sum of Private Gifts
& Grants
January-June 2017

10
Number of New Endowed
First-Generation
Scholarships

New Programs Added This Year

- Post-Baccalaureate Certificates in MRI certification
- Post Baccalaureate Certificate in IGT certification
- Post-Master's Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Demon Days
lasts how long?

42 Days
Aug. 19-Sept. 26

$711
Cost of Tuition
when Chris Maggio
enrolled at NSU in 1982

0
# of Times
It HASN'T Rained
at Color Chaos

250
# of Students
Who Participated
in 1 of 7 Day of Service

Worksites were Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery, Natchitoches Historic Foundation and American Cemetery, The Wesley, Cane River Food Pantry, NSU Food Pantry, Fort St. Jean Baptist, Cane River Children's Services.

17 x 54 / 15 HD
Stats on Turpin Stadium's
New, Privately-Funded Scoreboard

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Investiture (Latin):
(n.) a ceremony at which honors or rank are formally conferred on a particular person.
(v.) To put on the clothes in the insignia of office

Dr. Chris Maggio was formally invested as the 19th president of Northwestern State University Sept. 15.

Maggio Investiture
A university, community celebration

Dr. Joseph Christopher Maggio was installed as the 19th president of Northwestern State University Sept. 15 in a formal Investiture ceremony attended by students, faculty, alumni, friends, family, dignitaries and honored guests from throughout the state. The installation of Maggio as president capstones a life and career dedicated to service and student success at the university where he has served on faculty and/or staff in numerous leadership and instructional capacities since 1988.

"I am honored to be surrounded and supported today by so many members of my families. The word families is plural because I am referring to my parents, wife, children, siblings and other relatives and to our Northwestern State family of students," Maggio said. Dr. Maggio and his wife, the former Jennifer Zeagler, were joined by their children, Melanie, Scott and Emily.

A procession of faculty and staff in full academic regalia began the ceremony that incorporated many Northwestern State traditions and acknowledgements of the school's 133-year history. The Natchitoches-Northwestern State Symphony Orchestra, NSU Concert and Chamber choirs and 68th Demon Battalion participated in the ceremony. Offering welcome to those assembled were Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey (Class of 1974), Student Government Association President Otha C. "Tre" Nelson of Baton Rouge, Faculty Senate President and Associate Professor of English Dr. Thomas Reynolds and Alumni Association President Monty Chicola (Class of 1980), who during the ceremony presented Dr. Maggio with a presidential NSU class ring and Mrs Maggio with a matching pendant. Rev. Dr. Calvin Phelps offered the invocation.

"Dr. Maggio is one of the first people that encouraged me to come to NSU," Nelson said. "When I first met him, I knew he had a deep passion for Northwestern State University. The SGA and NSU have a long history of working together to make sure the voice of the student body is always heard."

Pulitzer Prize winning veteran journalist and NSU alumnus Gary Fields (Class of 1982 and 1984) was guest speaker, who said Maggio has a way of connecting with people and bringing them together.

"Chris was headed for this job from the moment he was born," Fields said, noting that each position Maggio held at NSU throughout his years built upon the previous one.

Throughout the program, the new president and others spoke of the Maggio family's long relationship with the city of Natchitoches and with the university. The grandson of immigrants, Maggio recognized many members of his extended family in attendance, referencing their emphasis on faith, family, education and hard work.

"My siblings and I helped my immigrant grandfather realize his dream by graduating from the university that he held in such respect and esteem," Maggio said. "This occasion underscores the historic importance of the university to the descendants of those Italian immigrants."

As Faculty Senate president, Reynolds carried the University Mace for the ceremony, which symbolizes the academic power and authority of the university. The use of ceremonial maces dates back to the 14th century.

"I can think of no one at this university more firmly rooted in Natchitoches and

NSU than Dr. Maggio," Reynolds said. "His years of service have helped NSU survive through tough times and thrive in better times. We as a faculty look forward to working with Dr. Maggio for many years to come."

Dr. James B. Henderson, president of the University of Louisiana System and immediate past president of Northwestern State (Class of 1994), assisted Nelson in bestowing the vestments of the office of president and formally installed Dr. Maggio into office with the President's Chain. The robes, in school colors of purple and white, are a gift from the Student Government Association and represent the mutual collaboration between the students and the administration. The President's Chain was presented to NSU President Emeritus Dr. Randall Webb in 2009 by the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the founding of Northwestern State University. It bears the engraved names all presidents of the university.

The Investiture program concluded with the university's alma mater and a benediction by Dr. Hayward "Sonny" Hargrove Jr. (Class of 1964), a member of the NSU Alumni Association Board.

Earlier in the day, the Maggio family was joined by the university and Natchitoches community at a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with hymns performed by the NSU Chamber Choir. Principal celebrant was Rev. Blake Deshautelle, pastor of Immaculate Conception. Concelebrants were the Very Rev. Scott Chemino, the Rev. John Cunningham, the Rev. Monsignor Carson LaCaze, the Rev. Marc Noel, the Very Rev. John O'Brien, the Rev. Craig Scott (Class of 1986), the Rev. Brian Seiler (Class of 2006) and the Rev. Louis Sklar (Class of 1990). Readings and hymns from the Mass reflected Dr. and Mrs. Maggio's expressed values of service, faith and diligence.

Following the Investiture, the Maggio family received visitors at the Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence. The community event featured the talents of students from NSU's Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts. Artwork by students, faculty and alumni selected especially for the occasion was on display in the home and refreshments included Italian delicacies made from recipes passed down through the Maggio family.

Concluding the day, NSU's Department of Military Science hosted a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Recognition Day program, annually held the third Friday of September. The program took place at NSU's Freedom Tree, dedicated in 1973, on the front lawn of the President's Residence and honored World War II POW Lloyd Ponder of Natchitoches who went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from Northwestern in 1949.

Maggio served as interim president for four months during a national search before being named president May 4. Since then, NSU reported an unprecedented increase in grants and private gifts for the first half of 2017 and a 7.7 percent increase in enrollment for the Fall 2017 semester. Current enrollment is 10,572 students, the largest in the university's history.

Maggio is a 1985 summa cum laude graduate of Northwestern State. As a senior, he was elected Mr. NSU by his fellow students. He earned his master's of education at NSU. He received a doctorate in developmental education from Grambling State University.

Jennifer Maggio earned a graduate degree in Student Personnel Services at NSU in 1992 and has worked in education as a teacher and administrator at the elementary, secondary and university levels. As first lady, she has been actively engaged with campus activities and organizations and this semester initiated a literacy project to benefit youth in the region.

Melanie Maggio, 22, is in graduate school pursuing a degree in library and information sciences. Scott Maggio, 19, is an undergraduate pursuing a degree in communications. Emily Maggio, 15, is a 10th grade student at St. Mary's in Natchitoches.

"As a current student, to get to experience this is great," said Ty Wright, a junior biology major form DeRidder. "Dr. Maggio will probably serve a long time here at NSU. We look forward to Dr. Maggio's presidency as a student body."

The Mass, Investiture and community reception were pinnacle events of a week of festivities that included a Patriot Day observance on Sept. 11, the annual Demons Come Out at Night Pep Ray and concert, the First Lady's Service Project and activities surrounding NSU's first home football game.

Maggio said that his interaction with prospective students from many diverse backgrounds and the relationships that continued as those students became productive alumni relate back to the values of his immigrant family who came to America seeking opportunity.

"I have been blessed for three decades to be involved in some of the many different dimensions of our historic school. I have taught in its classrooms and those academic experiences are the very core and keystone of any university," Maggio said. "At the soul of the university is the spirit of innovation, exploration and synergy that keep it vibrant and consequential. Those qualities tie the schools' past to its future."

Kimberly Eckert 2017 Louisiana Teacher of the Year

Kimberly Eckert, an English teacher at Brusly High School in West Baton Rouge Parish, was named Louisiana's Teacher of the Year by the Louisiana Department of Education. Eckert and other outstanding Louisiana educators were honored during the 11th annual Cecil J. Picard Educator Excellence Awards Gala on July 28.

Eckert earned a bachelor of social work degree from Northwestern State University, completed her teacher preparation program through LRCE and earned a master's degree in special education at NSU. She is currently two courses short of a second master's in curriculum and instruction with a reading focus from NSU.

Eckert has been teaching in West Baton Rouge Parish for nine years. In addition to teaching English I, she has also served as a special education inclusion teacher, a reading interventionist, speech teacher, mentor and master teacher as well as an instructional coach.

"While I currently work as an English I/speech teacher, I have held exclusively each of those roles over the years and no doubt will again at some point, based on the needs of my district. I would say that my experience as a special education inclusion teacher is most directly related to my success in the classroom now because at the end of the day, tailoring instruction to the individual needs of my students is at the heart of what I do each day even though the number of students went from about 12-15 a year to 125 a year," she said. "What's most rewarding about working with students every day, in any capacity, is that I get to see the direct impact of our effort together daily. My students work so hard for me, and it makes me want to work twice as hard for them. Over the course of the year, it's a beautiful thing to see them surpassing my goals then setting their own and surpassing those too."

Eckert said her work in supporting teachers stems back to her work as an inclusion teacher as well.

"Ultimately, I'm at my best when I'm supporting and amplifying the work of those around me. I became so comfortable co-teaching with and learning from my peers as their inclusion teacher, that it was an effortless transition to again work beside them in a coaching role. I love a good team, in and out of the classroom, so my time working with teachers, especially new ones, was just as exciting and inspiring as my time with students." —Eckert

Last year, Eckert was named the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LACUE) Teacher of the Year for high schools, an award she previously won for middle schools. In 2013, Eckert was selected as the West Baton Rouge Parish Middle School Teacher of the Year for work as a special education teacher. She has been awarded several grants to further educational initiatives, is a Kagan Scholarship winner, a Discovery Star Educator and has had student work showcased on local TV stations in Baton Rouge.

Eckert has presented at local and state conferences and has had work featured in LACUE publications on integrating technology for struggling learners in a flipped classroom.

"Kimberly was a joy to teach and collaborate with on class discussions, assignments, field experiences and projects," said. Dr. Barb Duchardt, a professor of special education at NSU and Eckert's advisor as she completed her masters' degree. Eckert's research was conducted on 80 junior high students ranging in age from 12-16 who were enrolled in reading intervention classes at Port Allen Middle School. She evaluated their reading comprehension results using the Reading CLOZE strategy procedure collecting pre-and posttest data, Duchardt said.

"Kimberly is a life-long learner. She was proactive in her active class participation and she always went above and beyond the course requirements. She was excited about teaching students with exceptional learning needs, and I am so happy for her 2017 Teacher of the Year recognition. It is well-deserved," Duchardt said.

"I can't speak highly enough of the attentions and relationship I had with my advisers," Eckert said. "I really felt like they provided special attention and invaluable feedback on every single discussion I participated in and every body of work I submitted. I also can't say enough about the classmates I collaborated with and shared in discussion with course after course. I feel like the program attracted really passionate teachers and it was a great experience to share with them all."

Eckert is the second educator with degrees from NSU that has been named Louisiana Teacher of the Year. April Giddens (1996, 1998), who this year joined NSU's faculty, was named the 2012 Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Jack Bedell named Louisiana Poet Laureate

The language and rhythms of poetry Dr. Jack Bedell learned at Northwestern State University steered his career in a new direction and led to one of the state's highest honors.

Bedell (1986, 1987) was recently named the new poet laureate for Louisiana by Gov. John Bel Edwards and will hold the position for two years. NSU Professor Emeritus of English Dr. Julie Kane held the position from 2011-13.

"I'm humbled and surprised by Governor Edwards' appointment of me as State Poet Laureate," said Bedell. "I never would have thought my quiet poems about family and growing up in south Louisiana would draw that kind of attention."

Bedell is a professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University and the author of nine books, including Call and Response (with Darrell Bourque, 2010), Come Rain, Come Shine (2006), What Passes for Love (2001), Bone-Hollow, True: New & Selected Poems (2013), Elliptic (2016), and Revenant (2016). As editor of Southeastern's literary magazine Louisiana Literature since 1992, he has published numerous Louisiana poets. As poet laureate, he looks to continue promoting the state's poets.

"More than anything, I want to draw attention to the great writing being produced all over Louisiana," said Bedell. "Our state has so many brilliant poets, so many wonderful voices. My role as poet laureate enables me to shine some light on those great artists so they get the credit and attention they deserve. I really can't wait to travel around our state celebrating poetry and showcasing all of the talent the state has to offer."

According to selection guidelines, nominees must have published works in books, anthologies, literary journals or magazines. A selection committee seeks information from the general public and the literary community. The committee is charged with selecting nominees who reflect the diverse cultures and heritage of Louisiana.

"In my poems, I try to honor the people, traditions and places that have made me the person I am," said Bedell. "Because I love Louisiana so much, particularly the Atchafalaya Basin where I was born and raised, I write with a good bit of reverence and appreciation for the region. My family has always taken a prominent role in my poems, too. They are the good in my day, and I really try to express my appreciation for them as well."

Bedell says many of his recent poems have dealt with our changing environment on the coast of Louisiana. Coastal erosion and flooding are recurring subjects in his most recent collections.

When Bedell enrolled at NSU, he planned to earn an English degree then attend law school. But the influence of fellow students and faculty caused him to rethink his plans.

"In my English classes at NSU, though, I learned to love the language and rhythms of poetry," he said. "Before long, all I thought about was learning ways to write poems about the people I loved.

"I could write a full memoir about the impact my professors and fellow students had on my development as a writer and human being. Fraser Snowden, my philosophy professor, gave me my very first literary magazine and opened my mind to art and ethics. Neill Cameron encouraged me to learn the craft of writing. Bill Robert taught me to read literature critically. Norman German showed me how to be a teacher and practicing writer. This list could go on for pages."

His path to a teaching career was solidified after teaching his first class in graduate school.

"I had never really given teaching any thought until then," said Bedell. "After my first class, I was hooked on the thrill of discussing literature and writing with a full class. I still haven't lost that thrill."

Spotlights

Adam Braun, a 2016 graduate of NSU's sport administration program, accepted the position of Head Football Equipment Manager with Army West Point last summer. Braun previously worked in the NSU Athletics equipment room as a graduate assistant.

He joins former Demon football coach Kevin Corless, who is linebackers coach at Army.

Meagan Stephens has taken over as band director at Three Rivers (Texas) Independent School District.

Stephens served for six years as the assistant director of the Mighty Bulldog Band. Leading the band is nothing new for her, having also been the interim director for two years.

Stephens is affiliated with the Texas Music Educators Association, the Association of Texas Small School Bands and the Texas Band Masters Association. She also has served as a UIL Adjudicator.

Stephens, who hails from Dallas, is a 2009 graduate of Northwestern State University in Louisiana where she earned a bachelors degree in music education. She has taught in Three Rivers ever since.

DiOnetta Jones Crayton, associate dean for undergraduate education and director of the Office for Minority Education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received the Inclusive Culture and Equity Award from the Women in Engineering ProActive Network. Crayton joined the staff at the university in 2009. Earlier, she was director of diversity programs for the College of Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Crayton is a 1987 graduate of Northwestern State. She earned a master's degree in educational counseling from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California.

Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston, senior vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Research at Augusta Technical College in Augusta, Georgia, was awarded the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, a highly selective leadership program aimed at developing a new cadre of outstanding leaders capable of transforming student success at community colleges across

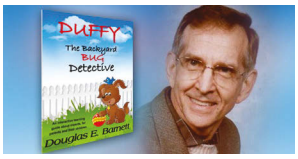
Continued on page 7

Maynard and McNeely

Demon Regiment honors Maynard, McNeely

Each year, the Northwestern State University Demon Regiment recognizes alumni who distinguish themselves in their military career, in their service to their communities and in their support of the ROTC program. This year's honorees are Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Truman Maynard, left, and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Charles L. "Sandy" McNeely, who both had long careers in service before returning to Natchitoches and offering support to the Demon Regiment, the ROTC alumni organization, and NSU's ROTC program. Maynard took a lead role in the establishment the Demon Regiment and McNeely was the group's first adjutant. For information about the nomination process, or to nominate a member to the Demon Regiment Hall of Fame, contact the Military Science Department at (318) 357-5157. Nomination packets must be received by December 15, 2017, to be considered for induction during the Military Ball, which will be held on March 24, 2018.

Northwestern State University's Department of Military Science hosted a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action National Recognition Day program Sept. 15. The program honored Lloyd Ponder of Natchitoches, a 1949 graduate of NSU, who spent four years in a Japanese POW camp. ROTC Cadet Karl Marzahl read excerpts from Ponder's moving memoir, "World War II, Prisoner of War Experiences of Lloyd Ponder." The program took place at NSU's Freedom Tree, an oak dedicated in 1973 at 1 Normal Drive between the President's Residence and Chaplin's Lake. POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed nationally on the third Friday of September and was incorporated into activities surrounding the Investiture of NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio.



Alum aims to inspire children with insect adventure book

A world of mystery and adventure awaits children who open Douglas E. Barnett's new book, "Duffy the Backyard Bug Detective."

The author, who earned a master's degree at NSU in 1970, shares the story of Duffy, a puppy that plays in his backyard, discovering all kinds of insects.

Written for children ages 5 to 12 years old, Duffy introduces young readers to world of the science in a colorful and intriguing way.

"The book is interactive, in that it provides an interesting and creative way for parents to enhance their children's reading skills, while teaching them the actual details about the world of insects," Barnett said. "Both are transferable to their school environment."

Barnett says parents, grandparents, mentors and other adults will enjoy guiding the young person in early reading and learning activities. "Humor and fun in the book create a delightful environment for easy learning. This book is designed and dedicated to shared reading."

Barnett's hope is that this book will be used by parents to foster early reading and understanding of the written word, through the colorful images presented. Perhaps, it will engender their further reading and exploration of the scientific world.

"Duffy the Backyard Bug Detective" is available in paperback and for Kindle on Amazon's website.

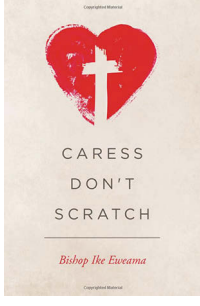
Barnett, a native of Arkansas, graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Ph.D. in insect systematics. He joined NSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi in 1967 while pursuing a Master of Science.

After a successful career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he retired from the Federal government in 2006 and now resides in Monterey, Tennessee, with his wife, Eileen.

Barnett's interest in photography began when he was a small boy. His interest grew, developing into a serious pursuit in college and during his career. It became a passionate hobby in retirement. Barnett never lost his child-like fascination with the wonders and beauty in nature.

He has now published this book, so that other children can learn about the amazing things nature has to offer — hidden in their own back yards. He has also published in a number of scientific journals and technical publications.

Eweama book encourages sowing seeds of peace



Bishop Ike Eweama authored a book last year, "Caress, Don't Scratch," that calls on humanity to step up as a group to sow seeds of peace. Eweama is a preacher and certified family wellness and marriage education instructor who has written numerous articles for theological texts on love, sex and marriage. He's a member of the Orthodox Missionary Servants of Christ and founded Stillpoint International Ministries. He was also the first president-rector of the Gregorian Orthodox School of Theology.

Bishop Eweama was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and is a decorated member of the United States military. He's currently a lieutenant colonel and garrison command chaplain for more than 155,000 transient soldiers at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. His accolades include the Combat Action Badge for courage in the face of enemy fire.

Eweama graduated from Northwestern State in 2002 with a master's degree in adult education and counseling. He attended the National Missionary Seminary and did postgraduate studies at, among others, University of Arkansas, Northwestern State, the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, International Orthodox Christian Institute and Emory University. He has multiple master's degrees as well as a doctor of ministry and a PhD in biosocial ethics.

Eweama and his wife, Dr. Uzo Eweama, have four biological and two adopted children.

Eweama's book is available at amazon.com

Spotlights *continued from page 6*

the U.S. The Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C., announced that Frank-Alston joins the 2017-2018 class of Aspen Presidential Fellows.

Frank-Alston holds a Ph.D. in workforce education and development with an emphasis on training/human resource development from Pennsylvania State University, an M.S. in college student personnel with an emphasis in counselor education from Western Illinois University, and a B.A. in anthropology from Northwestern State. She is a 1990 graduate of NSU where she was involved with Lady of the Bracelet and was first runner-up in 1988. She was a member of the homecoming court and involved with Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the Anthropology Club and Alpha Lambda Delta.

Frank-Alston and her husband, Dr. Sparticus Alston, have two daughters, Cosette, age 16 and Colette, age 12.

Following are the names of NSU graduates who have enjoyed or are still enjoying professional opportunities as musicians in the U.S. Military:

Treg Ancelet (1993) – U.S. Army Band and based in Virginia

Daniel Collins (2003) - TRADOC (U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command) and based in northern

Virginia Robert Caulking – U.S. Army Band

Robert Browning (1994) – U.S. Air Force Band based in San Antonio

Kelly Watkins (2000) - Lead Trumpet with U.S. Coast Guard Band

Mark Reilly (2002) – U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp based in Washington, D.C.

Rick Jones (1973) – U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp (recently retired)

Aaron Carpenter (2006) – U.S. Marines

Josh Arvizu (2002) - Oboist with the U.S. Navy Band in Washington, D.C.

Carlos Ortiz (2009) – U.S. Marine Band based in San Diego

Jeff Mathews (1990) is the national commander of the Air National Guard Bands and travels several times a year to do inspections.

NORTHWESTERN STATE

2017 HOMECOMING

Friday, Oct. 20

9:00 am – Alumni Association/Foundation Board Meeting @ Caspari Hall Conference Room, 3rd Floor

11:00 am – Homecoming Golf Tournament @ NSU Rec Complex

1:00 pm – Varnado Hall Open House

5:00 pm – Alumni Art Exhibit @ Orville Hanchey Gallery - with alumnus and collector, Ron Wilkinson

5:30 pm – Homecoming Parade (University Parkway)

6:00 pm – Pep Rally (Iberville Green)

6:30 pm – 1997 Football Team Reunion Banquet @ the Landing

7:00 pm – NSU Black Alumni Alliance Mixer @ Hana Sushi Bar & Grill, Refreshments provided

7:30 pm – Homecoming Awards during Rockin' on the Green

8:30 pm – Afterhours: Downtown by Decades...Graduates will meet up downtown at specific locations by graduation year.

- 60's & 70's - Mayeaux's
- 80's - Magliueaux's
- 90's - Mama's
- 2000's - The Landing
- 2010 to 2017 - The Pub

Saturday, Oct. 21

9:00 am – Homecoming Alumni Breakfast and Bingo @ Collins Pavilion

10:00 am – N Club Hall of Fame Induction @ Magale Recital Hall

– Morrison Open House for Scholars' 30th Anniversary (classes, faculty/student meet & greet)

– NSU Black Alumni Alliance Annual Planning Meeting @ Student Union Cane River Room

11:00 pm – College of Business Reception - Outstanding Business Awards @ Russell Hall, Natchitoches Room

11:30 am – Luncheon for Past Homecoming Kings & Queens and Mr/Miss @ Student Union - Ballroom

12:00 pm – Scholars' 30th Anniversary Picnic Lunch @ Morrison Quad

1:00 pm – Gallaspy College of Education & Human Development Reunion @ Teacher Education Commons Area

1:30 pm – Hall of Distinguished Educators Induction Ceremony @ Teacher Education Auditorium, Pod A

2:00 pm – Tailgating Activities @ Collins Pavilion and Donald's Demon Alley

3:00 pm – Demon Regiment Open House and Tailgate @ James A. Noe Military Science Building

5:30 pm – Pregame Activities @ Turpin Stadium

6:00 pm – Northwestern State vs. UCA @ Turpin Stadium

– Scholar's College 30th Anniversary - Dinner and Dance @ Natchitoches Events Center (Or Game)

7:30 pm – Halftime Ceremonies @ Turpin Stadium

9:00 pm – Win against UCA

10:00 pm – NSU Black Alumni Alliance Homecoming Party @ Illuminations

FORK 'EM DEMONS

NORTHWESTERN STATE
Alumni
ASSOCIATION

Shreveport campus home to Cafe DeMon II

Northwestern State University's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health in Shreveport celebrated the opening of Café DeMon II, a new coffee shop located adjacent to the library in the campus's main administrative building. Café DeMon II will service more than 1,000 students and 60 full-time faculty who are often unable to leave campus for lunch or breaks with Starbucks coffee, sandwiches and snacks. The project was initiated by the CONSAH campus Student Government Association, who will share profits from the café. The grand opening took place during orientation for first-level clinicals students. From left are Dr. Dana Clawson, dean of NSU's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health; Logan Webb, past Shreveport SGA President; NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and Ryan Harmon, current Shreveport SGA president. The NSU Shreveport campus is located at 1800 Line Avenue.

Varnado Hall reopens

Historic Varnado Hall reopened for the Fall 2017 semester after extensive renovation to transform the residence hall into a 21st century living/learning community. Hannah Pettus of Baton Rouge was among the first to move in with help from Demon volunteers Eriq Carver, Blake Cook and Behrend Brittain Behrendsen. Varnado houses students in the School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Poche Scholarship aids in growth for NSU Fishing Team

Cason Lewis of Pineville is the 2017 recipient of the Dylan Kyle Poche Memorial Fishing Scholarship, presented to a member of the NSU Fishing Team. From left are Adrianna, Allison, Alisa, Craig, Zach and Cason Lewis with Fishing Team Sponsor Juddy Hamous and Poche family members Burt, Shelley and Brady Poche and Misty Ott and Fishing Team Captain Johnny Ledet. In conjunction with selecting the recipient, the Poche family also presented the NSU Fishing Team with a donation to support their activities. Poche was a 2015 graduate of Natchitoches Central High School who excelled at tournament fishing and was a member of the NSU Fishing Team. He passed away in January 2016. The NSU Fishing Team is open to all full-time students who maintain a 2.0 or better grade point average. Hamous said the club is an opportunity for students to get involved on a competitive level with a healthy and enjoyable lifetime sport. To learn more about the NSU Fishing Team, visit beademon.com/fishing.

SWEPCO completes grant to Northwestern State

Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, second from left, presented Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio with a check for $31,000 to complete a $200,000 grant arising from Valley Electric capital credits accumulated over the co-op's 70 years of service. The money will be matched with $80,000 in State Board of Regents funding to bring the total donation to $280,000. The donation will be used for student scholarships, faculty and staff support and capital improvements. Those attending the check presentation were, from left, NSU Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce, Campbell, NSU men's basketball coach Mike McConathy, Maggio, Emile Cordaro, manager of governmental affairs for American Electric Power/SWEPCO, Associate Director of Development Jill Bankston and Assistant Vice President for External Affairs and Director of the NSU Foundation Drake Owens.

Pastor establishes scholarship for children of incarcerated individuals

A Shreveport minister established a scholarship to help students whose parents have been incarcerated attend Northwestern State University. The Big Al's Rock It Scholarship will be awarded in the fall and spring semesters. Students must maintain a 2.5 or better grade point average. Preference will be given to a student from the Shreveport Bossier area. Applicants must provide proof that their parent or guardian has a history of incarceration and write an 800-word essay on "How incarceration impacted their life and how they will change their community."

"The mission of the Big Al Fund is to provide students with the opportunity to advance even though their parents may have experienced setbacks due to incarceration," explained Pastor Eric Williams, pastor of The Rock Church in Shreveport. "Big Al experienced a life of incarceration in Louisiana's most notorious prison but was released and started a new life of transformation. Throughout his life, he mentored and trained young people to excel in life. In 2004, he passed after a battle with diabetes. The Big Al Fund was established in 2017 to continue his legacy of change and mentorship."

The Rev. Eric Williams, right, pastor of The Rock Church in Shreveport, established a scholarship at Northwestern State University that will benefit the children of individuals who have been incarcerated. Williams hopes the scholarship will help disadvantaged youth improve their lives through education. At left is NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow.

Todtenbier Scholarship will benefit business students

The family of Reynold H. Todtenbier has established a Northwestern State University scholarship that will immediately help a student and also support NSU in the long term through an endowment.

The Reynold H. Todtenbier Memorial Scholarship will be presented to a student pursuing a degree in business with preference given to a student from Natchitoches Parish. The recipient must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and will initially be awarded $500 per year for the duration of their studies. Another portion of the annual donation will be set aside as an endowment.

"This endowment was established in such a manner that a portion can be awarded as a scholarship as soon as possible, which is crucial for many of our students. The endowment is a long-term goal, but the scholarship dollars meet an immediate need," said NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston, CFRE. "Many times we visit with students for whom $250 or $500 makes the difference in getting their degree."

The scholarship was established by Michele Maggio Todtenbier with her son Ryan and daughter-in-law Erika to honor their husband and father, the late Ren Todtenbier, who passed away January 12. Mr. Todtenbier was a longtime resident of Natchitoches and graduated from NSU in 1977. Early in his career, he served as a chaplain's assistant in the Seventh Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, primarily in Germany where he and Michele, who were married in 1978, resided during his military career.

Upon his return to the U.S., Mr. Todtenbier pastored several small churches, operated family restaurants, and spent his last 20 years working in insurance, where he focused on his passion for seniors and their healthcare needs.

The family of Ren Todtenbier established a scholarship at Northwestern State University in his memory. From left are NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Michele Maggio Todtenbier, Ryan and Erika Todtenbier.

NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio said "the endowment honors a great man as a legacy that will help many students for years to come. This is personal. This is family. Knowing Ren, I know this would mean so much to him and this endowment is for a lifetime. This is a great benefit for our community and for our family," Maggio said.

Ryan is a 2007 NSU graduate and a partner at a local CPA firm. His wife Erika is a 2005 NSU graduate and a teacher at NSU Elementary Lab School. Michele is a well-known local Realtor who has serviced the Natchitoches community for the past 20 years. Also, in recent years, she has taken up Ren's passion for helping seniors with their insurance needs. The family hopes this gesture in honoring their loved one by supporting NSU will inspire others in the community to do the same.

Posey family fulfills endowment honoring parents

The family of the late Allen and Mary Lee Posey has fulfilled a Northwestern State University endowed scholarship that honors the couple who were active in the Natchitoches community and at Northwestern State University for more than 50 years. The Allen and Mary Lee Posey Distinguished Graduate Scholarship in Education is awarded to a graduate student seeking an advanced degree and career in education. The Posey family recently added $30,000 to the existing scholarship fund, which will be matched by the Board of Regents to complete the full amount of $100,000.

"We have chosen to ensure that the scholarship will continue in the memory of our parents by fulfilling the endowed scholarship," said Lee Posey, the couple's son. "The scholarship will support an early childhood education major that has a love of children and a passion for making a difference in the lives of those he or she teaches."

Allen Murph Posey Sr. and Mary Lee Sigler Posey were natives of Red River Parish who met at Northwestern State in 1946. Allen had served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and spent 23 months in German POW camps. After the war, he returned home and enrolled at Northwestern majoring in agriculture. The couple married in January 1948.

In 1947, Mary Lee was the first NSU graduate in child development, a new program in the home economics curriculum. At that time, state certifications did not allow child development graduates to teach in public schools, so she continued her studies at night and during summers to earn bachelor's, master's and +30 in education. Allen Posey passed away in 2003. Mary Lee Posey passed away in 2016.

The Posey family honored the memory of their parents by fulfilling the Allen and Mary Lee Posey Endowed Distinguished Graduate Scholarship in Education with a donation to the NSU Foundation. Representing the family for the presentation were, front row from left, Madison Stoll, NSU Associate Director of Development Jill Bankston, Evie Posey, Hayes Posey, Lee Posey, Sheila Posey Clark, Sarah Clark Stoll and NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio. On the back row are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Rob Posey, Lee Posey, Rex Clark, Allen Posey Jr. and Dr. Kimberly McAlister, head of NSU's Department of Teaching, Leadership and Counseling.

Two of the Posey children, Allen Jr., a Baton Rouge attorney, and Clark, have teaching degrees earned in 1971 and 1976. Lee Posey (1974), who is mayor of the city of Natchitoches, has a demonstrated history of support of education and programs for youth in the Natchitoches community.

Alma Dell Morgan Scholarship was a special birthday surprise

In honor of his mother's birthday, Robert Morgan wanted to surprise her with something she didn't have, a gift that would keep on giving. He did so by establishing a scholarship in her honor at Northwestern State University. The Alma Dell Thomas Morgan Endowed Scholarship will be awarded to a student pursuing a degree in education with preference given to students from Union or Natchitoches parishes. The recipient must be employed and must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average.

Mrs. Morgan was a teacher at NSU Elementary Lab School for 30 years. Robert Morgan said the scholarship is a testament to his mother's character, work ethic, lover, honor and grace.

"God game me the best Mama any person could ever have," he said when the scholarship was revealed to her on her birthday Aug. 4. "I consider my mother to be the perfect southern belle. This is how special my Mama is: she came to this university while operating a ranch by herself because my father worked away from home. In 4-1/2 years, she earned her undergraduate degree and master's degree, taking 26-30 hours per semester, while working on a farm and raising two boys."

Members of the Morgan family gathered to honor Mrs. Alma Dell Thomas Morgan's birthday and announce a Northwestern State University Scholarship established in her honor. On the front row from left are Mrs. Morgan and Sawyer Morgan. On the back row are Dennison Morgan, Robert Morgan, Joey Longlois, Thomas Guin and Ashley Morgan.

Originally from Union Parish, Mrs. Morgan enrolled at Northwestern State after her sons started school, graduating in 1963. After earning her degrees, she taught second grade for one year and third grade the rest of her career, estimating that she taught between 750 and 850 students, including her grandson Joey Longlois, who was required to call her "Mrs. Morgan" in the classroom. Mrs. Morgan acknowledged that she was a strict teacher, tough but fair.

Lott Scholarship supports employee dependents earning degrees

Dawson Howie, a Northwestern State University freshman from Alexandria, is the inaugural recipient of the Luther W. Lott Sr. Memorial Scholarship, presented to a Northwestern State student whose parent or guardian is an employee of Lott Oil Co. Howie is a business administration major who graduated from Grace Christian School in May. His father, James Howie, is a 20-year employee of Lott Oil's Alexandria facility.

The Luther W. Lott Sr. Memorial Scholarship is a four-year scholarship established by the Lott family for a full-time NSU student who is the dependent of a Lott Oil employee. The company intends to add three more scholarships over the next three years. In the event that no Lott Oil dependents are eligible in a given year, administrators from the NSU Foundation will select recipients with preference to students from north and central Louisiana.

Dawson Howie of Alexandria, a freshman business major at Northwestern State University, was named the first recipient of the Luther W. Lott Sr. Memorial Scholarship, presented to a dependent of a Lott Oil employee. From left are Kim Lott, Kelsy Davis, Michael Lott, Camille Lott, Howie, Lott Oil Company President Luther "Buddy" Lott Jr., Lott Oil Operations Manager Mark Massia, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio and NSU Associate Director of Development Jill Bankston.

Lott Oil is a regional leader in fuels, lubricants and related products and services for industrial, commercial fleet, automotive and retail customers throughout Louisiana and east Texas. Lott Oil distribution centers are located throughout north and central Louisiana. In addition to the home office in Natchitoches, the company maintains satellite offices, warehouses, and bulk plants in Alexandria, Bossier City, Leesville, Mansura, Many, Monroe and Winnfield.

Bequest honors former faculty member Dr. Walter Robinson

A Sherman, Texas, orthodontist left a bequest to Northwestern State University to establish a scholarship named for his father, a long-time professor at NSU. Dr. William "Bill" Robinson, who graduated from NSU, established the Dr. Walter J. Robinson Endowed Memorial Scholarship that will be presented to a senior level student majoring in engineering technology who is selected on recommendation from department faculty. The scholarship honors Walter Robinson, who served on the faculty of the industrial arts department from 1945-1971, which included a time as department head.

Dr. Walter Robinson and his wife Marguerite lived on Williams Avenue and Scott Robinson said he has many fond memories of visiting Natchitoches as a child, swimming in the Natatorium during the summer and enjoying the Christmas lights on Cane River. Members of First Baptist Church, Dr. Walter Robinson was chairman of the deacons, a Sunday school teacher and a member of the choir. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason, a Shriner and district governor of Lions International. In 1990, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Robinson moved to Sherman, Texas, to live closer to Dr. Bill Robinson, their only child. Dr. Walter Robinson passed away in 1999.

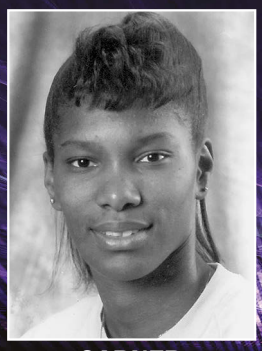
Bacdayan Scholarship to benefit nursing, business students

The family of a former Northwestern State University faculty member created two scholarships to benefit students pursuing careers in nursing/allied health and business.

The Bacdayan Family First Generation Scholarship in Nursing and Allied Health and the Bacdayan Family First Generation Scholarship in Business will each be presented to a student in those majors from his or her incoming year through graduation. The student must be a Louisiana resident and maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

Both scholarships were each created with a $60,000 contribution that will be matched by the Board of Regents in January to be fulfilled at $100,000.

Wali Bacdayan and his wife Dr. Wendy Neel Bacdayan selected the business and nursing/allied health fields because of their own chosen career paths. Mr. Bacdayan is a co-founder and partner in a private equity investment firm, Incline Equity Partners, based in Pittsburgh.Dr. Bacdayan is a pediatrician in private practice in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania, in suburban Pittsburgh.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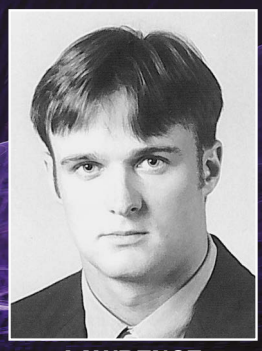
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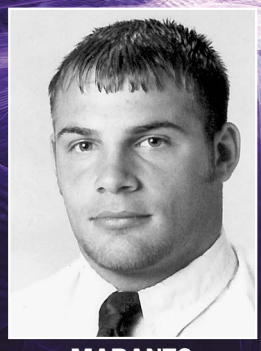
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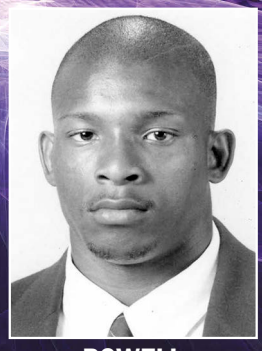

POWELL

RAYFORD

2017 N Club induction Oct. 21

Major league pitcher Brian Lawrence, football All-Americans Tony Joe Maranto and Ronnie Powell, and basketball greats Bo Rayford, Eric Kubel and Stephanie Shaw Locke, and Lady Demon track trailblazer Marlene Garner comprise Northwestern State's N-Club Hall of Fame induction class of 2017.

The seven standouts will receive NSU's highest athletic honor on Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m. in a ceremony at the Magale Recital Hall on campus. The event is open to the public at no charge.

Lawrence, who starred for the Demons in 1997-98, won 50 games in six seasons in Major League Baseball in a 13-year professional playing career. His No. 29 is one of four retired by the Demons.

He became the San Diego Padres' opening day starter in his five seasons with the Padres. Lawrence was National League Player of the Week for April 14, 2002. As a Demon, he was the 1998 Southland Conference Pitcher of the Year while winning two straight Southland championships under head coaches Dave Van Horn and John Cohen.

Maranto and Powell helped the 1997 Demon football team win a share of the Southland Conference championship and reach the FCS playoffs. Both played in the NFL.

Maranto, who played at NSU from 1994-97, was the Southland's 1997 Defensive Player of the Year as a safety, andmade the Southland's Team of the Decade for the 1990s. He had 209 tackles in his final two seasons with six interceptions as a senior.

Powell, a Demon from 1996-98, is one of the school's greatest two-sport athletes, winning three All-America honors as a sprinter in track and field and running for 2,076 yards and 15 touchdowns while helping the football team win back-to-back Southland championships in 1997-98. He owned the Demons' 100 meter dash record for 16 years with a 10.13 time and was third in the 55 meter dash at the 1998 NCAA Indoor Championships.

Rayford was NSU's first two-time All-Southland basketball selection as he played from 1986-89. He posted the eighth-best single-season scoring total, 591 points in 29 games (20.4 average), as a senior, when his 21 points and 11 rebounds led the Demons to an 85-82 win at Kentucky. He scored the go-ahead basket and took a charge in the final minute.

Kubel won the 1994 Southland Conference Player of the Year award, still the only Demon to capture that honor in men's basketball. The 6-8 center, a two-year all-conference performer, averaged 24.3 points and 13.1 rebounds as a senior and ended his career (1991-94) with 1,325 points, 18th all-time in school history, and 702 rebounds, 11th best at NSU.

Locke was a two-time All-Southland point guard for the Lady Demons when two of the program's most explosive scorers, previous N-Club Hall of Fame inductees Joskeen Garner and Angela Simpson, dominated the spotlight. Locke ranks 16th all-time with 1,309 points in 119 games, is fourth in assists (578) and had 254 steals, fifth in school history at the end of her career. NSU was 88-33 in her career from 1992-96, finishing second in the 1995 WNIT and fifth in the 1993 WNIT.

Garner, who sprinted at NSU from 1991-93, was twice the Southland's 100 meter dash champion and became the first Lady Demon track and field competitor to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Championships (1993) after being the first NSU woman to compete at the USA Olympic Trials a year earlier. She set the school 100 dash record (11.47).

The inductees were chosen by an N-Club committee using voting by N-Club members as a factor in selections.

1997 Football team reunion will coincide with Homecoming Festivities

Members of the 1997 Southland Conference champion NSU Demons football team are reuniting for Homecoming weekend, Oct. 20-21, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their remarkable season.

Registration is available through the NSUDemons.com website on the football page, on the 1997 Football Reunion button.

Events include a Friday evening social at the Chateau Saint Denis Hotel on Second Street in Natchitoches, with catering by The Landing Restaurant.

Saturday morning's schedule features two members of the 1997 team, Tony Joe Maranto and Ronnie Powell, being inducted in the N-Club Hall of Fame in a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Magale Recital Hall adjacent to the Fine Arts Auditorium in the middle of campus.

After tailgating during the afternoon, a team photo will be taken at 5:30, 30 minutes prior to kickoff, on the field at Turpin Stadium.

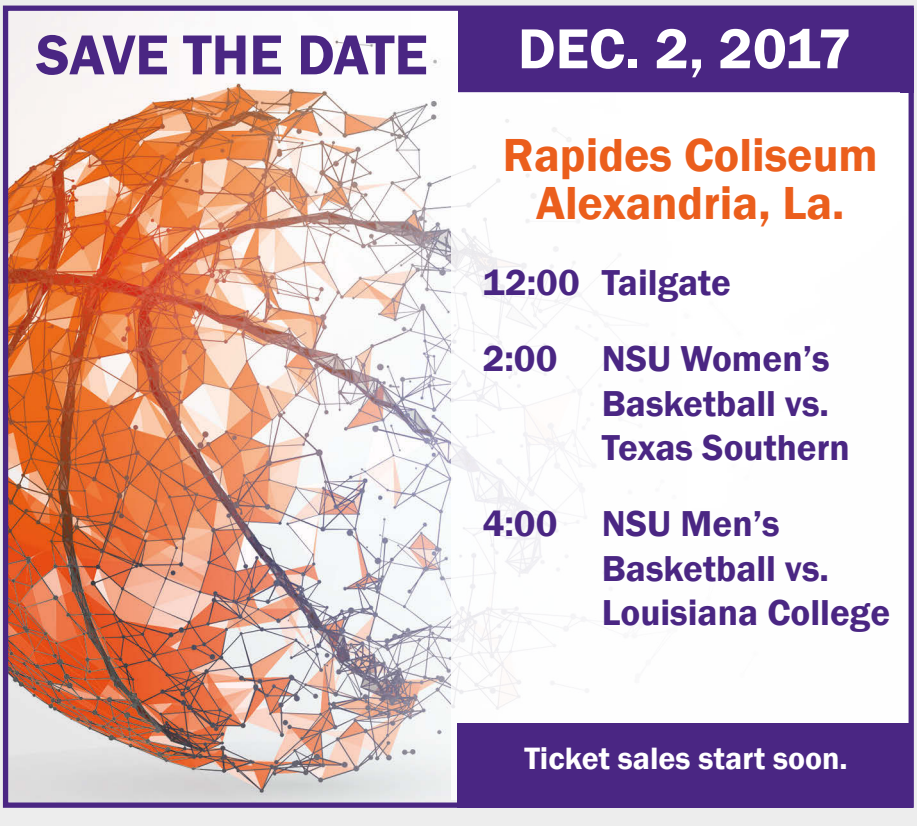
For information, contact Mike Jacklich, assistant athletics director, at 318-357-4268.

The 1997 team brought the first Southland Conference championship and playoff appearance since 1998 to NSU. More than 2,000 people swarmed the field at Turpin Stadium and yanked down the south goalpoast on Thursday night, Nov. 20, after the Demons clinched the crown by whipping nationally-ranked Stephen F. Austin.

That was the sixth straight win by NSU, by a team that overcame a turbulent first two months of the season that included tragedies, season-ending injuries and a mortifying mid-season blowout loss at McNeese. The resilient Demons, led by Coach Sam Goodwin, rallied to mount one of the most remarkable charges in school history.

That group will be celebrated during Homecoming weekend with the 1997 Demon football reunion.

A 1957 Gulf Star Conference championship team reunion is being organized for a home game in November. Contact Jacklich for information.



The NSU basketball programs will bring NCAA Division I basketball to Alexandria and the recently-renovated Rapides Parish Coliseum on Saturday afternoon, December 9.

Coaches Mike McConathy (men) and Jordan Dupuy (women) are "Calling all Central Louisiana Demons" to join the Demons and Lady Demons for the holiday hoops action. Tickets will be just $10.

Tickets will be available at NSUTickets.com and at designated Cenla outlets, along with at the door at Rapides Parish Coliseum on December 9. Check NSUDemons.com or call the NSU ticket office at 318-357-4268 for more information.

At least one national preseason publication is picking the NSU men to win the Southland Conference championship. Dynamic senior guard Jalan West returns to join proven veterans Devonte Hall, Ishmael Lane and Iziahiah Sweeney along with one of the most talented recruiting classes in Demon history.

The Lady Demons will be pushing the ball upcourt in Dupuy's second year as head coach, featuring explosive junior center Cheyenne Brown, senior forward Tia Youngblood and junior forward Libba Gilliam.

Former NSU runner wins gold medal at National Senior Games

Marvin Herring adhered to a strict running program last summer, hearing a familiar voice in his head. As he pounded pavement on distance runs three days a week and shot out of the blocks in sprint work an additional three days per week, Herring heard the unmistakable voice of legendary NSU track coach Walter Ledet.

But it's not 1957-58 any more, the only year Herring ran at Northwestern State before having to move back to the Dallas area because of illness.

The 79-year-old (turns 80 in October) used Ledet's words to hold off the field and take the gold medal in the 800 meters at the National Senior Games in Birmingham, Alabama, in June.

Herring, who now lives near Weatherford, Texas, clocked a 3:22.10 -- the third-fastest time ever run in the 80-84 age group.

"(Ledet) was the best coach I ever had," Herring said. "He knew about running and would work with you. I wish I could have run all four years with him.

"I heard Ledet's voice saying to sprint across that finish line – don't stop before you get there like most athletes do."

In the finals, Herring rocketed off the starting line, building a 15-meter lead after running the first 200 meters in 44 seconds.

But the field closed in throughout the remainder of the race, and Herring needed to hit the "sprint button" around the last curve to preserve his first gold medal in his third Senior Games.

"I had a friend that told me they were coming up fast as I went into a curve," Herring remembered. "I hit it as hard as I could and ran through the finish line like I wasn't stopping for another 20-30 feet.

"Coach Ledet taught me that – to run through the finish like I was on fire. I had tears in my eyes. I couldn't believe I had won."

Herring thought he had an outside shot at a medal and solid chance at a ribbon, awarded to runners who finish fourth through eighth.

But he said many runners were from the North and the West, not suited to run in the June heat of Alabama.

"In the first heat of the 800, I looked at the runners, and they looked ready to faint in high humidity with 85 degree temperatures," Herring said. "Something told me I had a chance to win my first medal.

"(In the finals), I told the guy in my lane not to step on me or elbow me. I was going to start fast."

Once Herring was introduced to running in middle school, he had a fast start to his career through Sunset High School in Dallas.

Herring, yearning for the country, chose to attend NSU with his brother Donald. Pneumonia eventually developed into walking pneumonia, shipping Marvin back to Texas. He ran some at North Texas State (now University of North Texas), but he started his real life in the oil industry as a cost construction engineer with major players like Conoco and Mobile.

Herring is aiming to climb the 800 meters ladder in his 80-84 age group, with his time just two seconds short of the second fastest and about 10 seconds off the best time of 3:10.

"I encourage all of the N-Club members to run or swim or bike – do something for your health," said Herring, who proudly proclaims his N-Club status. The N-Club is an organization of former NSU letterwinners. "I pushed my kids to do that, and they are all runners."

The Columns Funds - Annual Giving

The Northwestern State University Foundation is committed to excellence in providing educational and cultural resources, and fostering economic development in our region.

Contributors to the Columns Fund provide funding for many programs and projects with their annual unrestricted, tax-deductible contributions. During this time of extreme budget cuts and economic challenges, the Columns Fund is even more crucial to the continued success of Northwestern State. By contributing to the Columns Fund, using the envelope provided in this magazine, you have the opportunity to make a significant impact on Northwestern State's future and make a meaningful investment in our student's success.

Guess Who

Homecoming 1992. NSU versus Northeast Louisiana University (now known as the University of Louisiana-Monroe). Vic the Demon won a victory of his own when he got into a scuffle with the NLU mascot, Chief Brave Spirit, when what began as typical mascot antics and taunts escalated into fisticuffs. When Chief Brave Spirit yanked off Vic's head, the Demon responded with a body slam, sending the student section into a frenzy. The incident was picked up by national media, NSU's SGA proclaimed Halloween as Vic the Demon Day and the student who suited up as Vic gained a hero's status. Can you name him? Email jacksonl@nsula.edu and include your current city of residence and the year you graduated.

Summer Guess Who Answers: Demons pictured at the 1986 State Fair Game were Michelle Van Hook, Allen Evans, Todd Keenan, Sarah Nelken, Craig Scott, Eddy Broadway and Todd Poynter, according to the Potpourri caption. Those who guessed correctly are as follows.

Elizabeth C. Lyle Lorber (1986), Houston
Allen Evans (1989), Shreveport
Marshall Carll (1989), Jefferson
Joseph Robertson (1990), DeQuincy

Looking Back

The Baptist Student Union, an organization sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, was organized at Louisiana State Normal College 90 years ago this year in 1927, under the leadership of the local Baptist Church. Pictured are 1937 members of the BSU on the steps of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches. Known today as the Baptist Collegiate Ministry, BCM continues in the 21st century as one of the largest faith-based organization on the NSU campus.

In Memory

1942 – Vivian M. Langley, June 15, 2017, Lake Charles

1948 – Ruby Weaver, Aug. 13, 2017, Covington

1953 – BG (Ret.) James T. Bonsall, June 1, 2017, Bastrop

1953 – June Gissler-May, June 6, 2017, Albuquerque, New Mexico

1958 – Robert Kelley, June 12, 2017, Palm Desert, California

1959, 1962 – Frank G. Pirnique, Palouse, Washington

1958 – Robert Paul Adams, July 31, 2017, Baton Rouge

1959 – M. Eugene Wright, Jan. 28, 2016, Flower Mound, Texas

1960 – Lowell Brown Jr., July 31, 2016, Houston

1961 – Carolyn Boydstun Masson, July 14, 2017, Cloutierville

1961 – Nancy Jones Underwood, March 22, 2017, Benton

1965 – William "Bill" Pierce, Sept. 13, 2017, Elm Grove

1970 – Robert E. Lucky Jr., June 3, 2017, New Orleans

1970 – Betty Ames, June 11, 2017, China, Texas

1970 – Joe Sepulvado, Aug. 20, 2017, Shreveport

1971 – Knute Warner Anderson, July 22, 2017, Port Orford, Oregon

1973 – Stan Wright, Aug. 14, 2017, Natchitoches

1974 – Dr. Karen Townsend Gordy, Aug. 31, 2017, Natchitoches

1989 – Paula Windham Geoghagen, Sept. 7, 2017, Natchitoches

1989 – Denise Flores Poleman, June 9, 2016, Natchitoches

1990 – Christy Dianne Gibson, July 15, 2017, Natchitoches

1994 - Melissa Fletcher Dunn, Sept. 12, 2017, Natchitoches

1996 – Dawn Martin Brouillette, June 24, 2017, Natchitoches

2004 – Brenda Dubois, June 6, 2017, Natchitoches

2014 – Tracy Renee Herndon, April 22, 2017, Maumelle, Arkansas

Dr. Stan Chadick, Sept. 11, 2017, Natchitoches

Northwestern State University
Alumni Columns
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0002

Class of 2021

Northwestern State University welcomed 1,542 new students to campus and hosted the New Student Convocation and President's Picnic Aug. 20 to mark the start of their academic journey. The freshmen come from 316 high schools in 16 states from Alaska to Florida, as well as several foreign countries. Move In Day and Convocation also launched Demon Days 2017, a 42-day schedule of activities that immerse students into campus life, service and university traditions. University officials reported an increase in enrollment, as well as an increase in fall to fall retention this semester.